

but leaving her in ^{tin}¹ oblivion in which she. was left at the time by every one except by Napoleon.

The disaster of 1814 had rather dispersed than crushed the Bonaparte family, and they rallied immediately on the return from Elba. The final fall of the King pin* was total ruin to them. The provisions of the Treaty of Fontainebleau, which had been meant to insure a maintenance to them, had not been carried out while Napoleon was still a latent power, and after 1815 the Bourbons were only too happy to find a reason for not paying a debt they had determined never to liquidate. It was well for any of the Bourbons in their days of distress to receive the bounty of the usurper, but there was a peculiar pleasure in refusing to pay the price promised for his immediate abdication.

The flight of the Bonapartes in 1815 was rapid. M^cCarter-nieh writes to Maria Louisa in truly, 1815: ** Madame Mere and Cardinal Fesch left yesterday for Tuscany. We do not know exactly where Joseph is. Lueien is in England under a false name, Jerome in Switzerland, Louis at Home. Queen Hortense has Bet out for Switzerland, whither General de Flaxiault and his mother will follow her. Mural seems to be still at Toulon; this, however, is not certain.¹ Was ever such an account of a dynasty given! Them* had all been among the great ones of Europe: in a moment they were, fugitives, several of them having for the rest of their lives a bitter struggle with poverty. Fortunately for them the Pope, the King of Holland, and the Grand Duke of Tuscany, were, not under heavy obligations to Napoleon, and could thus afford to give to his family the protection denied them by those monarchs who believed themselves bound to redeem their former servility.

When Napoleon landed Maria Louisa was in Austria, and she was eager to amuse him in taking every precaution to prevent her meeting the young King of Home, being spirited off to join her father, whose fortune** she had worn to share, she herself was faint falling under the influence of the one-eyed Austrian General, Neipperg, just then a widower, who was soon to be admitted to share* her bed. By 1829 she seemed to